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CLAIMS

1   1.   A method for data entry, comprising:

2   receiving a plurality of images;

3   sorting the images into an order responsive to a

4   measure of similarity between the images, so as to group

5   similar images together in the order;

6   presenting to an operator a first image among the

7   images in the order, and receiving an input from the

8   operator specifying a code to be assigned to the first

9   image;

10   presenting to the operator a second image,

11   subsequent to the first image among the images in the

12   order, along with the code specified by the operator for

13   assignment to the first image; and

14   assigning the code to the second image responsive to

15   a single input action by the operator, indicating that

16   the second image is to be assigned the same code as the

17   first image.

1   2.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality

2   of the images comprise entries in fields in one or more

3   form documents.

1   3.   A method according to claim 2, wherein the one or

2   more documents comprise multiple fields, and wherein

3   receiving the plurality of the images comprises

4   extracting the entries from a selected one of the fields

5   in the documents.

1   4.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the images

2   comprise alphanumeric characters, and wherein the code

3   comprises alphanumeric codes input by the operator

4   corresponding to the alphanumeric characters appearing in
5   the first image.

1   5.   A method according to claim 4, wherein sorting the
2   images comprises applying optical character recognition
3   (OCR) to the images so as to associate OCR codes with the
4   characters, and grouping the images according to the OCR
5   codes.

1   6.   A method according to claim 5, wherein grouping the
2   images comprises finding at least an approximate match
3   between a first string of the OCR codes associated with
4   the characters in the first image and a second string of
5   the OCR codes associated with the characters in the
6   second image.

1   7.   A method according to claim 1, wherein the single
2   input action comprises a single keystroke on a keyboard.

1   8.   A method according to claim 1, wherein receiving the
2   input from the operator specifying the code to be
3   assigned to the first image comprises receiving a first
4   input specifying a first code, and comprising, when the
5   second image is not to be assigned the same code as the
6   first image, receiving a second input from the operator
7   specifying a second code to be assigned to the second
8   image.

1   9.   A method according to claim 8, and comprising
2   presenting to the operator a third image, subsequent to
3   the second image among the images in the order, along
4   with the second code specified by the operator, and
5   assigning the second code to the third image responsive
6   to the single input action by the operator.

1   10.   Data entry apparatus, comprising:

2 a memory, arranged to store a plurality of images;

3 a display;

4 a user input device; and

5 an image processor, arranged to sort the images in
6 the memory into an order responsive to a measure of
7 similarity between the images so as to group similar
8 images together in the order, and further arranged to
9 drive the display so as to present to an operator a first
10 image among the images in the order, and to receive an
11 input from the operator via the user input device
12 specifying a code to be assigned to the first image, and
13 still further arranged to drive the display to present to
14 the operator a second image, subsequent to the first
15 image among the images in the order, along with the code
16 specified by the operator for assignment to the first
17 image, and to assign the code to the second image
18 responsive to a single input action applied to the user
19 input device by the operator indicating that the second
20 image is to be assigned the same code as the first image.

1 11. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the
2 plurality of the images comprise entries in fields in one
3 or more form documents.

1 12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the one or
2 more documents comprise multiple fields, and wherein the
3 processor is arranged to extract the entries from a
4 selected one of the fields in the documents.

1 13. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the images
2 comprise alphanumeric characters, and wherein the code
3 comprises alphanumeric codes input by the operator
4 corresponding to the alphanumeric characters appearing in
5 the first image.

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14. Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the processor is arranged to apply optical character recognition (OCR) to the images so as to associate OCR codes with the characters, and to sort the images according to the OCR codes.

15. Apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the processor is arranged to find at least an approximate match between a first string of the OCR codes associated with the characters in the first image and a second string of the OCR codes associated with the characters in the second image.

16. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the user input device comprises a keyboard, and wherein the single input action comprises a single keystroke on the keyboard.

17. Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the input from the operator specifying the code to be assigned to the first image comprises a first input specifying a first code, and wherein the processor is arranged, when the second image is not to be assigned the same code as the first image, to receive a second input from the operator specifying a second code to be assigned to the second image.

18. Apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the processor is further arranged to present to the operator a third image, subsequent to the second image among the images in the order, along with the second code specified by the operator, and to assign the second code to the third image responsive to the single input action by the operator.

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1   19. A computer software product, comprising a
2   computer-readable medium in which program instructions
3   are stored, which instructions, when read by a computer,
4   cause the computer to receive and sort a plurality of
5   images into an order responsive to a measure of
6   similarity between the images so as to group similar
7   images together in the order, and further cause the
8   computer to present to an operator a first image among
9   the images in the order, and to receive an input from the
10   specifying a code to be assigned to the first image, and
11   still further cause the computer to present to the
12   operator a second image, subsequent to the first image
13   among the images in the order, along with the code
14   specified by the operator for assignment to the first
15   image, and to assign the code to the second image
16   responsive to a single input action by the operator
17   indicating that the second image is to be assigned the
18   same code as the first image.

1   20. A product according to claim 19, wherein the
2   plurality of the images comprise entries in fields in one
3   or more form documents.

1   21. A product according to claim 20, wherein the one or
2   more documents comprise multiple fields, and wherein the
3   instructions cause the computer to extract the entries
4   from a selected one of the fields in the documents.

1   22. A product according to claim 19, wherein the images
2   comprise alphanumeric characters, and wherein the code
3   comprises alphanumeric codes input by the operator
4   corresponding to the alphanumeric characters appearing in
5   the first image.

1 23. A product according to claim 22, wherein the
2 instructions cause the processor to apply optical
3 character recognition (OCR) to the images so as to
4 associate OCR codes with the characters, and to sort the
5 images according to the OCR codes.

1 24. A product according to claim 23, wherein the
2 instructions cause the processor to find at least an
3 approximate match between a first string of the OCR codes
4 associated with the characters in the first image and a
5 second string of the OCR codes associated with the
6 characters in the second image.

1 25. A product according to claim 19, wherein the single
2 input action comprises a single keystroke on a keyboard.

1 26. A product according to claim 19, wherein the input
2 from the operator specifying the code to be assigned to
3 the first image comprises a first input specifying a
4 first code, and wherein the instructions cause the
5 computer, when the second image is not to be assigned the
6 same code as the first image, to receive a second input
7 from the operator specifying a second code to be assigned
8 to the second image.

1 27. A product according to claim 17, wherein the
2 instructions further cause the processor to present to
3 the operator a third image, subsequent to the second
4 image among the images in the order, along with the
5 second code specified by the operator, and to assign the
6 second code to the third image responsive to the single
7 input action by the operator.